(c) the help rendered by the Central Government to the State Government to control this meanace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c)The Central Government has no specific information relating to the increase in the number of mentally ill patients in Orissa as reported in the New Indian Express, dated 19th December, 2002. However, the number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world-wide. The Government has been undertaking programmes on mental heatth and has formulated National Mental Health Programme for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan to promote mental health care throughout the country.

Expenditure on Health

528. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest estimate of public sector expenditure on health;

(b) whether Government have committed itself to raising the public expenditure on health to 2 per cent of GDP; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINrSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the World Health Report, 2002 the Government spends 17.8% out of the total expenditure on health. It is envisaged in the National Health Policy-2002 to increase public health expenditure from 0.9% of GDP to 2% of GDP by the year 2010.

(c) Government is making all efforts to increase expenditure on health in line with the NHP-2002, subject to overall financial constraints. Substantial external assistance is being mobilised through various bilateral and multilateral agencies for the implementation of various disease control programmes. State Health System Project with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary level health care facilities is presently under implementation in seven States.